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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WANTED—BACK REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS' SOCIETY.

DEAR EDITOR: Will you please allow me to ask through your Letter Department if there is anyone who has the back numbers of the reports of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools? We need 1893 and 1894 to complete the file of the Society, and we have requests to furnish libraries with complete files. Anyone who has any that she is willing to dispose of, from 1893 up to 1911, with the exception of 1909, is requested to communicate with me.

SARA E. PARSONS,  
*Secretary National League  
of Nursing Education.*

*Massachusetts General Hospital,  
Boston, Mass.*

### PLANS FOR A CLUB HOUSE

DEAR EDITOR: The nurses of Worcester are planning to build a club house, and would be very glad to hear from others who have had experience along this line. Our idea is to have a club room, library and kitchenette on the ground floor, and rooms for the Nurses' Central Registry upstairs. We would like to profit by the experience of others in methods of raising funds.

I. H. T.

*Massachusetts*

[Short replies to this request will be published in the Letter Department, and any article on the subject, that is suitable for publication, will be paid for at our regular rates.—ED.]

### EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

DEAR EDITOR: I am an R. N. and a subscriber to the Journal, which I read with pleasure as well as profit. I have gained much valuable information from it. Especially are the state board examination questions sought after by our nurses in training and by graduates as well. I would ask whether it is possible to have the answers to these questions published. A great many of our nurses are so anxious to have them, and they say it requires so much of their time to study them up while in training. I feel that if this could be done it would add much to your list of subscribers.

*Virginia*

R. N.

[If any state board, in sending the questions, would send also the best answer given to each question, the JOURNAL would be happy to publish them, but we believe it is far better for nurses to spend the necessary time to study out the answers than to receive them ready-made, without research.—ED.]

### THE CARE OF THE BREASTS

DEAR EDITOR: I have just been reading the paper, Care of the Breasts, in the JOURNAL. In regard to sore or cracked nipples, I would like to call to notice the little lead nipple shields which are apparently little known. In several cases,

during my training in a large maternity ward, and in three or four cases on private duty, I have found these shields very useful. They can be made thoroughly aseptic by simple boiling, are easily scoured and cleaned. I have found them obtainable at almost every drugstore, and have usually paid fifty cents a pair for them. They may be held in place by a little band, and are worn only between nursings.

Dr. DeLee, in his *Obstetrics For Nurses*, says, "The theory is that the lactic acid in the milk acts on the lead, and the nipple is bathed continuously in a sort of lead water application. This explanation has been questioned, but the fact remains that the little appliance is very successful in curing cracked and ulcerated nipples." In connection with the lead shield I have used the glass nipple shield during nursing, only just so long as the nipple was too sore to allow the baby to nurse from it directly.

This is a simple, not costly and clean device, and very effective.

*Wisconsin.*

E. K. D.

#### A REMEDY FOR CHAFING, AND A WARNING

DEAR EDITOR: I happened to be in a family recently where the three and a half year old boy was desperately ill, and a beautiful, healthy, but very fat baby of nine months had not quite so much attention as usual. After a few warm days, and before anyone realized it, his buttocks and the creases in the groins became perfectly raw, and part of the time bled. We used every precaution, trying not to let him be wet at all and using all the different powders and mixtures of salve and powder that I could think of, but with no improvement whatever. One day I made a mixture of lycopodium powder and pure oxide of zinc, equal parts, and it practically healed over night. In twenty-four hours the skin was not even red. I had tried each of these alone, but the lycopodium has no medicinal quality, and the oxide of zinc alone just made a paste that rolled up in balls, as there was so much exudate there, but together, the powder was drying and the oxide of zinc healing.

Another experience I had might be of help to others. I was assisting at an operation in the country where the house was lighted by gasoline lights. It was at night, and as ether could not be used, on account of its inflammable qualities, the anesthetist gave chloroform. It was very well given, and not more used than was absolutely necessary, but we soon felt a terrible choking sensation in our throats and had the doors opened to relieve it. Everything seemed favorable for the patient at first, but the next day he showed signs of nephritis, and died on the third day. We found out later that the combination of the two gases forms a very poisonous gas, which is heavy, so we did not notice it till it had gotten up to our level.

*Maryland.*

S. M. T.

#### CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

DEAR EDITOR: I inclose a clipping sent me by a Massachusetts nurse (the clipping is headed: "Didn't learn enough by mail. No correspondence school graduates who took state veterinary examinations last year were allowed to practice.") to show you that even the veterinary surgeons are fighting the correspondence schools. It does not seem to me that we, as nurses, are doing enough to fight the correspondence schools of nursing. I, personally, have sent protests to